A selection of our projects

Digital Development

Through the Pacific Region Connectivity Program, the Pacific is being connected, powered by solar power, and more reliable internet. Fiber-optic cables have been, or will soon be, connected in the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Palau, Samoa, and Tonga. In Tonga, this work has increased broadband access from 2% of the population in 2015 to 56% in 2019, and reduced the average cost of broadband by 67%.

Our support is also helping to connect outer islands to broadband, establish the foundations for digital government services, and strengthen the regulatory environment for the digital economy.

Resilience & Land

Pacific island countries are at the forefront of climate change and disasters. In partnership with the Pacific Community (PC), the Pacific Resilience Program is helping Marshall Island, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu to build early warning systems, strengthen disaster policies and community resilience, and is providing support for a regional disaster insurance scheme to ensure quick access to finance after a disaster. When disasters do strike, we work with partners and governments to support their short- and long-term recovery.

In Tonga, our support has helped reconstruct critical infrastructure, including more than 30 new school buildings, in the wake of 2018’s Tropical Cyclone Gita. In Kiribati, World Bank-supported economic reforms have paved the way for an expansion of preschool education across the country.

In both Samoa and Tonga, we have supported government-led efforts to reduce non-communicable diseases through tobacco and alcohol taxes.

Trade & Investment

World Bank economic analysis and help with ‘quick response’ poverty surveys are helping to target policy responses and assistance to the most vulnerable groups in Pacific countries.

In Tonga, we have supported a new national labor mobility policy that is delivering more opportunities for Tongans to access overseas employment. In Kiribati, World Bank-supported economic reforms have increased labor mobility policy that is delivering more opportunities for Tongans to access overseas employment.

In Kiribati, we are supporting the construction of new climate- and disaster-resilient maritime infrastructure, including the construction of a new jetty and passenger terminals, and in Samoa, we are helping to build the critical road link between the airport and the capital.

Transport

The Pacific Climate-Resilient Transport Program is building resilience in key roads, ports, and transport infrastructure in the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

The Pacific Aviation Investment Program has delivered major reconstruction works to airports and runways in Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, with work continuing in each country. Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands, helping to make air travel safer and more efficient across the Pacific.

Water & Sanitation

The South Pacific Water Supply Project is providing people on Kiribati’s most populated island better access to a safe, reliable and climate resilient water supply.

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Health

In Marshall Islands, the Multicenter Early-Childhood Development Project is investing in maternal and child health, as well as early childhood stimulation and care during the first 1,000 days of life.

In Papua New Guinea, the Emergency Tuberculosis (720) Project has ensured patient treatment program drop-out rates on New Guinea – one of the world’s major TB hotspots – have reduced from 30% to zero.

Poverty & Equity

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Economic recovery support is also being delivered throughout the region, and we have already supported Pacific countries with a wide range of impact research to provide critical insights into how countries are being impacted, and in turn, how best they can respond.

Food & Sanitation

We are working to improve access to health care in rural areas, particularly focusing on addressing non-communicable diseases.

Transport

The Pacific Climate-Resilient Transport Program is building resilience in key roads, ports, and transport infrastructure in the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

In Kiribati, we are supporting the construction of new climate- and disaster-resilient maritime infrastructure, including the construction of a new jetty and passenger terminals, and in Samoa, we are helping to build the critical road link between the airport and the capital.

Environment & Natural Resources

The Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program is helping Pacific countries coordinate sustainable development of their marine fisheries. The program ensures that the benefits from these fisheries are maximized for each country’s future growth and development.

The program also helps countries to sustainably manage their coastal fisheries and critical habitats, and to act on the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, in addition to supporting the Forum Fisheries Association.

Supporting the Pacific’s response to COVID-19

We are supporting the Pacific’s coronavirus response by working with partners in Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea and Samoa.

In Kiribati, we are supporting the construction of new climate- and disaster-resilient maritime infrastructure, including the construction of a new jetty and passenger terminals, and in Samoa, we are helping to build the critical road link between the airport and the capital.

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The World Bank Group aims to make a real difference in the lives of millions of people by delivering on its twin goals: ending extreme poverty and increasing shared prosperity. With deep financial resources, combined with global expertise in economic analysis and managing sustainable development, the World Bank is supporting Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands to be better connected, enhance resilience and create jobs and opportunities.

The Pacific Islands & Papua New Guinea

Pacific Island countries have substantial natural resources, they are rich in cultural diversity and are rapidly increasing their trade and digital links with global markets. However, Pacific countries face unique development challenges: they are physically detached from major markets, have small populations spread across many islands, they are confronting the worst impacts of climate change, and are some of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters in the world. We are supporting Pacific Island countries to build on their strengths, while managing their vulnerabilities.

Our mission

Where we work

Working in partnership with 12 countries across the region, the World Bank is currently supporting 90 projects across the Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea, totalling a US$1.83 billion commitment through a combination of IBRD and IDA financing and Recipient-Executed Trust Funds.

* based on 30 June 2020 data

**Where we work**

1 PROJECT
- Palau
  - $0.6m

10 PROJECTS
- Regional
  - $65m

6 PROJECTS
- Federated States of Micronesia
  - $182m

The World Bank Group

International Bank for Reconstruction & Development (IBRD)
- Lends to governments of middle-income & creditworthy low-income countries.

International Development Association (IDA)
- Provides interest-free loans & grants to governments of the poorest countries.

International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- Focused exclusively on the private sector; the IFC provides advice to businesses & government, & contributes debt & equity financing to commercial companies.

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) offers political risk insurance (guarantees) to investors and lenders to promote foreign direct investment into developing countries.

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
- Provides international facilities for conciliation & arbitration of investment disputes.

Agriculture & Food

Education

Environment & Natural Resources

Finance & Innovation

Digital Development

Energy & Extractives

Governance

Health

Poverty & Equity

Resilience & Land

Trade & Investment

Water & Sanitation

Transport